

Please substitute the following amended claims 1-7 for original claims 1-12 as follows. Original claims 8-12 have been deleted. Please also add new claims 13-15. As required by 37 C.F.R. §1.121, marked-up copies of the claims showing amendments for claims 1-12 are listed below.

1.(Amended) A copolymer (A) prepared by free-radical polymerization of

a) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer and

b) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer different than the- olefinically unsaturated monomer (a) and of the general formula I



in which the radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently of one another are hydrogen atoms or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cycloalkylaryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals, with the proviso that at least two of the variables R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are substituted or unsubstituted aryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals.

2.(Amended) A clearcoat material comprising

(A) a binder comprising at least one copolymer prepared by free-radical polymerization of

a) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer and

b) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer different than the olefinically unsaturated monomer (a) and of the general formula I



in which the radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently of one another are hydrogen atoms or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cycloalkylaryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals, with the proviso that at least two of the variables R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are substituted or unsubstituted aryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals, in an aqueous medium;

and

(B) at least one crosslinking agent containing at least two functional groups (bfg) which are able to undergo thermal crosslinking reactions.

3.(Amended) The copolymer of claim 1, wherein the copolymer (A) is obtained by (i) subjecting at least one monomer (a) and at least one monomer (b) to free-radical polymerization in an aqueous medium to provide a reaction product, and then (ii) reacting the resultant reaction product with at least one further monomer (a) under free-radical conditions.

4.(Amended) The copolymer of claim 1, wherein the aryl radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) comprise phenyl or naphthyl radicals.

5.(Amended) The copolymer of claim 4, wherein the substituents in radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) are electron-donating or electron-withdrawing atoms or organic radicals.

6. (Amended) The copolymer of claim 1, wherein monomers (a) comprise at least one monomer selected from the group of

- a1) (meth)acrylic esters which are essentially free from acid groups;
- a2) monomers which carry per molecule at least one hydroxyl group, amino group, alkoxymethylamino group or imino group and are essentially free from acid groups;
- a3) monomers which carry per molecule at least one acid group which can be converted to the corresponding acid anion group;
- a4) vinyl esters of alpha-branched monocarboxylic acids having 5 to 18 carbon atoms in the molecule;
- a5) reaction products of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with the glycidyl ester of an alpha-branched monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms per molecule;
- a6) cyclic and/or acyclic olefins; a7) (meth)acrylamides;
- a8) monomers containing epoxide groups;
- a9) vinylaromatic hydrocarbons;

- a10) nitrites;
- a11) vinyl compounds,;
- a12) allyl compounds;
- a13) polysiloxane macromonomers having a number- average molecular weight M_n of from 1000 to 40,000 and having on average from 0.5 to 2.5 ethylenically unsaturated double bonds per molecule; and/or
- a14) acryloxysilane-containing vinyl monomers, prepared by reacting hydroxyl-functional silanes with epichlorohydrin and then reacting the reaction product with (meth)acrylic acid and/or hydroxyalkyl and/or hydroxycycloalkyl esters of (meth)acrylic acid (monomers a2), and mixtures thereof.

7. (Amended) The clearcoat material of claim 2, wherein the clearcoat material further comprises at least one of the following constituents:

- A) at least one binder different than the copolymer (A) and containing at least one functional group (afg) which is able to undergo thermal crosslinking reactions with complementary functional groups (bfg) in the crosslinking agent (B)
- C) at least one constituent which is crosslinkable with actinic radiation,
- D) at least one photoinitiator,
- E) at least one thermal crosslinking initiator,
- F) at least one reactive diluent curable thermally and/or with actinic radiation,
- G) at least one coatings additive, and/or H) at least one organic solvent.

Please delete claims 8-12 and add new claims 13-14:

13. (New) The copolymer of claim 4, wherein the aryl radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) comprise phenyl radicals.

14. (New) The copolymer of claim 5, wherein one or more of the substituents in radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) comprise at least one group selected from halogen atoms, nitrile, nitro, partially or fully halogenated alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cycloalkylaryl, arylalkyl and arylcycloalkyl radicals; aryloxy, alkyloxy and cycloalkyloxy radicals; arylthio, alkylthio

and cycloalkylthio radicals; hydroxyl groups and/or primary, secondary and/or tertiary amino groups, and mixtures thereof.

15.(New) A clearcoat coating composition comprising the copolymer of claim 1.